



December 2011

*Do you have an expired or expiring State of Maine Nutrient Management Plan? The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has a new opportunity through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program that may provide you funds to help get your State of Maine Nutrient Management Plan updated.*

### **What is a CNMP?**

A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is a conservation plan that is unique to animal feeding operations. It is a grouping of conservation practices and management activities which, when implemented as part of a conservation system, will help to ensure that both production and natural resource protection goals are achieved.

A CNMP incorporates practices to utilize animal manure and organic by-products as a beneficial resource. It addresses natural resource concerns that may exist on the farmstead, including soil erosion, manure and organic by-products, and their potential impacts on water quality.

A CNMP is developed to assist an owner/operator in meeting all applicable local, tribal, State and Federal water quality goals or regulations. For nutrient impaired stream segments or water

bodies, additional management activities or conservation practices may be required to meet local, tribal, State or Federal water quality goals or regulations.

### **Developing a CNMP**

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans will be developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP), who is certified by NRCS and placed on an "approved list" to provide technical assistance to farmers and others for specific conservation programs administered by USDA. You can find the names of certified TSPs at <http://techreg.usda.gov/>, or through your local NRCS office.

To be eligible for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding to develop a CNMP, you will be responsible to have up-to-date soil and manure tests for all fields upfront.

### **Payment Information**

The following table shows EQIP payment rates for CNMPs. The payment rate is based on both the number of animal units and the number of acres that will be addressed by the CNMP. An animal unit is one thousand pounds live weight equivalent (for example, roughly one cow, horse or mule, or about five sheep or swine).

CNMP Animal Units	Acres	2011 Payment per CNMP General / HU
<100	<100	\$8,711.00 / \$10,454.00
	100-200	\$9,709.00 / \$11,651.00
	201-300	\$10,706.00 / \$12,848.00
	301-550	\$12,701.00 / \$15,242.00
	551-1500	\$14,175.00 / \$17,010.00
100 to 200	<100	\$9,709.00 / \$11,651.00
	100-200	\$10,706.00 / \$12,848.00
	201-300	\$11,704.00 / \$14,045.00
	301-550	\$13,699.00 / \$16,439.00
	551-1500	\$15,199.00 / \$18,239.00
201 to 450	<100	\$11,704.00 / \$14,045.00
	100-200	\$12,701.00 / \$15,242.00
	201-300	\$13,699.00 / \$16,439.00
	301-550	\$15,694.00 / \$18,833.00
	551-1500	\$17,231.00 / \$20,678.00
451 to 1200	<100	\$13,241.00 / \$15,890.00
	100-200	\$14,239.00 / \$17,087.00
	201-300	\$15,236.00 / \$18,284.00
	301-550	\$17,111.00 / \$20,534.00
	551-1500	\$18,649.00 / \$22,379.00

*Note: HU = Historically Underserved.*

For example if you have 44 dairy cows (average weight 1,400 lb), 15 heifers (average weight 750 lb), and 15 calves (average weight 500 lb), the total animal units would be  $(44 \times 1.4) + (15 \times .75) + (15 \times .5) = 80$ . If there were 205 acres to be included in the CNMP, the payment rate would be \$10,706.00. If the acres were adjusted to 200 acres, the payment rate would drop to \$9,709.00.



The payments are fixed and do not change based on what the entity or private firm charges you. Participants are responsible for the remainder.

### **Need More Information?**

For more information contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center listed in phone directories under U.S. Government or visit our web site at [www.me.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.me.nrcs.usda.gov).

